

an unusually shocking moment which has left the people of Israel, I think, genuinely in a state of deep mourning and, frankly, deep shock that it could have happened within Israeli society.

I believe for our part, we in the Congress have an obligation to continue to work toward the dream of a peaceful and prosperous Middle East, a Middle East in which Israeli's national security is ensured within a framework of friendship and comity with its neighbors. It is a long and a difficult process, but I think any Member or citizen of this country who watched on television, who listened to the heart-rending personal statement of Prime Minister Rabin's granddaughter, anyone who saw the historic moment in which the Russian Prime Minister stood next to the American President, who stood next to the premier of Spain, who stood next to the King of Jordan; to see King Hussein back in that part of Jerusalem for the first time since his grandfather was killed while seeking peace, and then to see President Mubarak of Egypt, it was truly a historic moment, a moment that I think must have made Rabin proud to know that he had contributed with his life's work and ultimately with his life to begin to move the Middle East toward peace.

I hope all Members will join in expressing our commitment and support. I hope all of us will remember that one person can make a difference, and that this sacrifice does not have to have been in vain. I hope all of us will continue to work to strengthen the prospects of having a genuine and lasting peace in the Middle East.

LET US DEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE TO ENSURE THAT PRIME MINISTER RABIN DID NOT DIE IN VAIN

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the violent death of Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is a tragedy, not only for his family and for Israel, but for the entire world. His life spanned Israel's painful struggle for birth and survival.

His military background gave him the credentials to lead Israel in search of a secure peace. General Rabin knew how to wage war. Prime Minister Rabin knew how to make peace.

In the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln, he has given the last full measure in his devotion to peace for Israel.

We can ensure that Yitzhak Rabin will not have died in vain if we the living rededicate ourselves to the cause of peace, to carry the torch that Yitzhak Rabin held high on the road to peace for Israel and for her neighbors throughout the Middle East.

YITZHAK RABIN: WARRIOR FOR PEACE

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from Israel, where I attended the funeral of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Today our condolences and our hearts go out to the people and friends of Israel, the Rabin family, and lovers of peace everywhere.

Prime Minister Rabin was a great man, a great statesman, and a great peacemaker. He lived his life protecting the people of Israel and gave his life trying to bring an end to the cycle of violence that has plagued his nation. He was a warrior for peace and that will be his legacy. No assassin's bullet can extinguish the flame, the dream, that Yitzhak Rabin ignited in the hearts and minds of his people. Yitzhak Rabin may no longer be with us, but his dream for a safe, secure Israel, an Israel at peace with itself and its neighbors, lives on.

We have all lost a great leader, a great man, a man of peace. Bless him.

EMULATING THE COURAGE AND DEDICATION OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN IN SUPPORTING THE PEACE PROCESS

(Mr. PAXON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, today we all come together, Christian and Jew and Moslem. We come together as people of different races and ethnicities, but we come together as Americans all, to join in mourning the tragic death of Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. There is absolutely no question, Mr. Speaker, of the singular greatness of Prime Minister Rabin. He was always a man of strength who lived a life of conviction and courage. Yitzhak Rabin gave his life in a passionate search for peace for all people in the Middle East.

The only question, the only question that remains: Will we who live on be as courageous and as dedicated in picking up where he left off, in standing up for a real and just peace in the Middle East?

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I commend all the previous speakers for their eloquence on the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin.

Mr. Speaker, later this week the House will consider for the second time the conference report on H.R. 1977.

Even though this bill was sent back to committee, the new reported version is still completely unacceptable.

This conference report undermines our commitments to native Americans, our National Park System, and our precious national culture.

This bill slashes the budget of the National Park System at a time when more of our constituents are using the parks.

In this bill the budget for the National Park System is cut by \$68 million.

This bill provides only \$1 for management of the Mojave National Preserve, a newly established California park.

It eliminates \$15 million for efforts to improve visitor safety and security at National Parks.

Despite public outcry about exploiting our national resources, this bill allows clearcutting in the Tongass National Forest.

This bill also undermines our commitments and treaty obligations to native Americans.

In this conference report native American programs will be cut by \$184 million from last year's levels.

The crippling reductions targeted at tribes will significantly reduce support for essential tribal government services such as law enforcement, housing improvement, health care, Indian child welfare, and adult vocational training.

This conference report cuts \$136 million more from Indian programs than the original House bill.

Make no mistake that this bill also jeopardizes the ability to provide important cultural, education, and artistic programs for communities across this country.

This bill eliminates 39 percent of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. These cuts mean less dollars for communities in your district to help them bring ballet and orchestra, opera, and theatre performances to your constituents.

I urge my colleagues to do what is right to protect our environment, to do what is right for native American children and our cultural heritage. Vote "no" on the Interior appropriations conference report.

IT IS TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, when this historic Congress convened, a number of us in the new majority promised our constituents that we would work hard to eliminate wasteful Federal agencies that cater to special interests. Soon we will have an opportunity to do just that by eliminating the Department of Commerce.

The Commerce Department, which was ostensibly created to promote American business interests, has evolved into a mish-mash of ineffective